



August 5, 2008

Mr. Jay B. Meyer  
General Manager  
Cypress Hills REDA/Southwest REDA  
Box 447  
SHAUNAVON SK S0N 2M0

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Your email of June 20, 2008 to the Honourable Wayne Elhard, Minister of Highways and Infrastructure, has been forwarded to me for response.

My Ministry, Enterprise and Innovation recognizes the value of full service border crossings and the lack of such services in south west Saskatchewan. It is for this reason that Enterprise and Innovation fully supports the Regional Economic Development Associations efforts at securing expanded hours of operation for the Climax/Turner crossing.

This has been made even more relevant as the province is upgrading Highway #37, which leads to this border crossing, to a primary weight standard.

Jay, I also want to thank you for your assistance and hospitality at my recent meeting in Shaunavon with local REDA representatives. Your help was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyle Stewart'.

Lyle Stewart

cc: Honourable Wayne Elhard, Minister of  
Highways and Infrastructure.



15 August 2008

Jay B. Meyer, General Manager  
Cypress Hills REDA/Southwest REDA  
Box 447  
SHAUNAVON SK S0N 2M0

Dear Mr. Meyer: *Jay*

I wish to take this opportunity to respond to your email of 15 July 2008 to the Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan.

Much of the prosperity we enjoy is linked to trade. Given the fact that exports account for about two thirds of all economic activity in Saskatchewan and the importance of tourism to the provincial economy, our government understands the need for access to the Northern Great Plains trading region of the United States (US).

Action South West has met with regional, Saskatchewan and Montana state officials to discuss means of enhancing access across the US and Canada Border in the South West Region of Saskatchewan (February 20, 2008). Action South West was a member of the South West Area Transportation Planning Council economic study that was released in the fall of 2007. One of the major goals was to set up a discussion of business and government officials to develop a strategy for enhancing cross border trade.

Saskatchewan supports the continued improvement of key north/south corridors currently developing on a regional basis. However, these initiatives should not develop in isolation. Key linkages between these routes must also receive appropriate attention. A major challenge for the provincial government is to coordinate these initiatives across the government.

The Montana Department of Transport (MDT) has submitted a research proposal "The Impacts of Increased Canadian Economic Development on Northern Montana Highways". The MDT is preparing this study and expects the work to be complete in the spring of 2009. Phase 1 covers an assessment of current and future economic conditions and an estimate of related commercial vehicle traffic growth with and without expanded port operations. This process will establish a base for future discussions on Montana port improvements and expansion.

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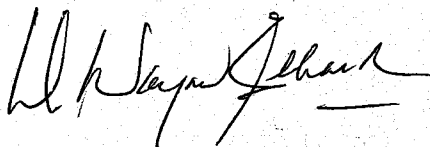
In this construction season, my Ministry has started two important projects in southwest Saskatchewan. In May we completed a 26 km repaving project (\$2.9 million) on Highway 4 north of Cadillac that connects to the Port of Monchy. The Ministry will also be upgrading 13 km of Highway 37 to a paved standard from Climax to south of the Frenchman River of (\$7.7 million). Any inquiries on these projects can be directed to Rocky Boyko, Senior Project Manager, Regina, at (306)787-4944.

Upon completion of the awarded Climax to Frenchman Valley section, my Ministry officials can discuss with you considerations related to the designation of Highway 37 from Gull Lake to the US border as a primary weight haul route. Please feel free to contact Mr. Harold Hugg, Executive Director, Transportation Policy, at (306)787-5311 to discuss this matter more fully.

Given your reference to discussions you have had with the Saskatchewan Trucking Association on the matter of a 24 hour commercial port, I have taken the liberty of copying Mr. Al Rosseker, Executive Director of that association in this correspondence.

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on how the citizens of Saskatchewan can share in the benefits of the growth we are currently experiencing. My Ministry would welcome a discussion to follow through on the policy options that may be available to enhance business and service needs of the communities in the South West Regional Economic Development Authority.

Yours truly,



D. Wayne Elhard  
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

cc: Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan  
John Law Deputy Minister, Highways and Infrastructure  
Al Rosseker, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Trucking Association  
Harold Hugg, Executive Director, Transportation Policy  
Rocky Boyko, Senior Project Manager, Southern Region